



March 7th, 2014

**Letter – Expression of Interest
VIA ECFS**

Chairman Thomas Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O’Rielly
Jonathan Chambers
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW 20024
Washington, DC

**Re: Expression of Interest – Rural Broadband Experiments
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners, and Mr. Chambers,

This letter is to express that Tincans Wireless Internet is interest in receiving funding from the Rural Broadband Experiments announced at the January 30th FCC Open Meeting.

Background

Tincans Wireless Internet is a small self funded Business that has been providing high speed internet to Businesses and Residents in the Illinois Counties of Clinton, Marion, Bond, Fayette and Washington since 2003. We realized there was a need for high speed internet and started providing high speed internet services before DSL or Cable internet connections were available in the majority of Towns within our coverage area. The majority of our coverage area still doesn’t have access to either DSL or Cable internet connections because it is the population density is not there for the phone and or cable companies to deploy wire-line services in these areas so they would be forgotten by the wayside if it weren’t for Businesses like ours.

We have forgone submitting applications for grants in the past and many times have seen those grants be released to companies and corporations who don’t take the best interests of the end users “both the Public and Businesses” to heart.



Geographic Territory

Tincans Wireless Internets's plan is to provide active fiber connections to businesses, public and private organizations and residential users in Carlyle, IL and the surrounding rural area. Exact census tract and block data can be provided. A small image of the proposed network has been attached. A detailed network layout is available upon request.

Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Status.

We are no currently an ETC but are pursuing have been researching our options to obtain CLEC status in the State of Illinois.

List of Anchor Institutions That We Could Provide Services to

Schools: Carlyle Grade School, Junior High School and High School

Libraries: Case Halstead Public Library. We currently donate service to the Library

Healthcare: Priority Care, Carlyle Healthcare,

City offices: City of Carlyle and Clinton County public offices.

US Army Corp of Engineers Carlyle Lake Project Office

Community Centers:

Proposed technology and Connection Speeds

The backbone of our network will consist of an Active Fiber Network. This is the only network design currently that is capable of delivering Gbit speeds to every node on the network and since every individual home and business has its own fiber the network has excellent scalability for future growth. Our plan also includes a hybrid wireless/fiber approach to provide service to a few remote subdivisions utilizing our existing wireless network infrastructure and licensed Point to Point Wireless to feed remote subdivisions where we would convert the network from the Wireless Point to Point back into active fiber to provide residents and businesses with connections of up to several hundred Mbits. The network will be robust, offer low latency, high capacity and excellent reliability.

One of the challenges that we have faced since 2003 while providing high speed internet to our users has been the lack of available bandwidth in sufficient quantities at reasonable prices in Carlyle and Clinton count. One of the more important parts of our planned network is to build out the fiber plant from Carlyle to Interstate 70 at Greenville so that we can connect to the Illinois Century Network. This will bring Carlyle and Clinton County access to data centers in both the St Louis metro area "on the IL side" and Chicago. This will allow us to also provide services to homes and businesses along IL RT127 between Greenville and Carlyle for minimal additional cost.



Being an active fiber network multi Gbit speeds are possible. So this will give us not only the ability to provide users with bandwidth and connections provided directly by us but will also allow us to lease PTP fiber from our network to the Illinois Century Network allowing larger Businesses to connect to the data centers mentioned previously to obtain their own bandwidth.

Based off of quotes we have received for upstream bandwidth our proposed pricing plans for residential users will start at \$40 for a 50/50Mbit connection and will increase by \$20 for every additional 10Mbit up to 100/100Mbit. Speeds above 100/100Mbit will be quoted on a dedicated access basis. Based off consumer feedback we may offer additional speeds below 50/50Mbit at lower prices. These prices are considerable lower than the US average price of \$3.33 per 1Mbit

Business usage varies greatly depending on the type of Business and usage we plan on offering a basic Business package of 50/50Mbit for \$50 per month, any bandwidth above 50/50Mbit will be quoted to the Business based on the type of usage. Based off of consumer feedback we may offer additional speeds below 50/50Mbit at lower prices. Again we will be able to provide multi Gbit speeds upon request.

As with our current ISP business we will continue to look for sources of more affordable upstream bandwidth and pass it on to our end users with increased connection speeds for the same cost.

State and/or Local Support for Project

We have been in contact with both representatives of the City of Carlyle and the Clinton County IL GIS Coordinator to help us with County mapping information for our proposed network layout.

Existing Providers

In much of our proposed coverage area connections speeds above 10Mbit down and 4Mbit up are not available to more than a few users at a time and in some areas the speeds are much less than this. Within the City of Carlyle currently cable is the fastest connection available at a reasonable price. Due to the design of cable networks the upload speeds are limited to 5Mbit or less. This limitation makes it of limited use to larger businesses or anyone who requires faster upload speeds. The future expansion of the network would provide fiber connections to locations that currently only have dialup and satellite internet available.



Project Timeline

The estimated time from start to completion of the proposed project is ~24 months

Scalability, Sustainability, and Future Growth

Our proposed network will pass approximately 1400 homes and businesses, with some of them being multi tenant units. We plan on growing the network to include several other Clinton County Communities, rural Residents and Businesses in the future.

Based off the lowest tier \$40 package this project will be self sustaining and profitable with as few as 550 end users. With 1000 end users the network will self fund future expansion to other under and un-served areas within Clinton County.

Total Business Investment

\$20000.00 plus the use of existing network resources.

Investment Needed

Our proposed project would require a one time investment of \$2,117,376.00 from the Rural Broadband Trials experiment.

Leveraging Funds

As mentioned we plan to attach the proposed network to the Illinois Century Network to make more options available for upstream data.

Total Project Cost

Our budget including capital equipment, network hardware and labor is \$2,137,375.00

Thank you for considering our Expression of Interest in your decision about the amount of funding that will be allocated in the Rural Broadband Experiments. We commend the FCC in this effort to connect rural communities and are ready to help you close the digital divide.

Sincerely,
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